

Maintenance dredging of Lower Duwamish turning basin to begin this week

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SEATTLE – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District, announces that maintenance dredging in the Lower Duwamish Waterway's turning basin will begin this week.

Manson Construction Co. of Seattle will be staging and setting up dredging equipment in the Lower Duwamish to remove approximately 134,000 cubic yards of material from the federal navigation channel. This dredging will enhance safe navigation. Manson will dispose of that material in the Elliott Bay site, previously designated by the Puget Sound Dredge Disposal Analysis program. Consideration is also being given to aquatic disposal alternatives for beneficial use.

Maintenance dredging in this area was last performed in 2004, and the material to be dredged has accumulated since then. This is routine maintenance dredging, typically done biennially, in an area where the material to be dredged meets clean sediment standards and is suitable for beneficial use, as determined by the Dredged Material Management Program.

In 2001, the Environmental Protection Agency added about five miles of the Lower Duwamish Waterway to its list of Superfund cleanup sites, because areas of the waterway were found to be contaminated. However, the turning basin site has been evaluated and the material there is within clean sediment standards; therefore, the material could be used beneficially.

One of the Seattle District's primary missions is to maintain and improve the navigation channels and harbors in the Pacific Northwest. Maintenance and navigation dredging is done frequently in harbor areas, ports and marinas. These areas naturally silt in. In the case of the Lower Duwamish, this area serves not only as a turning basin, but also a settling basin. Therefore, dredging is performed to maintain the depths needed for boats to operate. A significant component of Washington's economy depends on navigation and commerce, which in turn depends on dredging the state's waterways, such as the Lower Duwamish.

More information may be found within the online public notice at:

<http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/PublicMenu/documents/NAV/PublicNotice-DuwamishDredge2007-2011.pdf>

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